



## **WCGS Executive Committee Meeting | March 21 2018 9:00-10:45am**

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Present: James Skidmore(JS), Grit Liebscher(GL), Ann Marie Rassmussen (AR), Gary Bruce (GB). Regrets: Tara Collington

NB) Action items/next steps in red

### **Director's Report**

GL: GSS thinking about requesting money for the Imagination Workshop in 2018-2019 operating budget

GB: Why two cinema events?

- JS: the first event in (May/June) was brought forward by the embassies in Ottawa and will happen without the Centre footing more than bill for transportation and maybe some promotion; October film idea came from a meeting with Princess Cinema and their interest in doing more with WCGS

Grimm Lecture 2018 (Stedman Jones):

- Being held at Balsillie School (CIGI Auditorium) (by co-sponsoring with Balsillie, auditorium rental fee is waived, WCGS only pays for a/v and cleaning – about \$600 total)

### **New Initiatives**

#### **1) Book Prize**

- Committee was receptive to idea.
- **Changes agreed to:**
  - for 2018, books published in 2017
  - only requirement: provide copy of the book (hardcopy preferred by AMR) (delete request for readers' reports etc)
  - set earlier application date (suggested: July 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - create assessors' pool: ask academics from various disciplines if they agree to be called upon; make decision about whom to ask once the books have been received and we have a sense of which kind of expertise is needed
- Other comments:
  - JS: wants it to be clear that this prize, similar to the Centre, is to promote research/scholarly work that is accessible to broader audiences (as opposed to specialized audiences)
  - The Book Prize Committee names should remain anonymous.

#### **2) Ideas Lab**



- **Changes agreed to:**
  - Kickstart: for first offering (at least), no open call – approach a non-UW colleague of some stature and ask them to act as the initial academic convenor (committee members to suggest names of possible convenors)
  - Consider dates for sometime between end of April and mid-June (but avoid risky weather period of mid-November to mid-March)
- **Other comments/questions:**
  - Is setting a fixed date a good idea? Couldn't convenors be allowed to set date?
    - Response: this would make logistics more difficult; convenors would have to negotiate with presenters to settle on a date
  - Will convenors not want a role in logistics – will they be willing to surrender that control to the Centre?
    - Goal here: to let the academic convenor concentrate on the scholarship and leave the housekeeping stuff to WCGS – this is the service the WCGS will provide
  - GB: what is the hoped-for outcome? Would publishing short essays in the proposed online journal be attractive?
    - Response: to provide an alternative venue for publishing/discussing new ideas; shorter pieces could have a quicker turnaround; we can be flexible about length of articles coming out of Ideas Lab

### **3) Public German Studies (journal/website) (PGS)**

- JS emphasized that PGS was to be multi-media hybrid open access journal/website. UW Library provides online open access journal software and platform. PGS would further Centre's objective of disseminating scholarship that can serve a broader public, thereby supporting SSHRC's emphasis on open access scholarship that reaches both traditional specialized and newer broader audiences.
- **Questions/issues/comments/suggestions:**
  - GB: Who will read this? Who will submit? Is the name connected enough to WCGS?
    - JS: submissions could come from Ideas Lab in addition to normal article submissions
    - JS: for name, need to always include WCGS, e.g. Public German Studies, powered by the Waterloo Centre for German Studies
  - GL: PGS could publish material produced in-house, e.g. Grimm lecture.
    - General agreement on this. For example, if Grimm Lecture is recorded, recording could be published
  - AR/GB: PGS could publish conference reports (from North America, the way H-Soz-u-Kult does for Germany/Europe)



- Other kinds of reviews (of books, of journal issues, etc) could be possible as well
- Perhaps the journal should have identifiable sections for different types of articles/contributions
- Each contribution would have its review process recorded at beginning of article
- Question regarding level of (peer) review to make this attractive
  - General agreement to provide venue that can offer a range of article types with a range of reviewing mechanisms
  - AR: do we assume peer review is a synonym for quality? Perhaps we shouldn't
  - JS: WCGS would have submissions professionally edited to improve quality
- Question regarding suggested 3,000-word length
  - JS: let's be flexible, use that as a minimum so that people have that option if interested
- Editorial board needed
- **Next steps:** JS will flesh out the idea some more, providing a potential structure with content for consideration

#### **4) Public Scholars Program**

- GL: concern that amount (\$750) not enough to cover students' research expenses
  - **Action:** JS to review application process and award amount

#### **5) Membership**

- JS: not much input/activity from WCGS members - should we do something to increase membership and member activity?
  - AR: not so bad the way it is
  - GB/GL: perhaps **more social opportunities**, e.g. pub night, reception after annual meeting, etc.
  - AR: opportunity for outreach when new initiatives are in place

#### **6) Executive committee organization**

- JS: Since executive meetings are technically open to the whole WCGS membership, we will **form a planning committee** - made up of the executive members - to conduct the discussions without requiring attendance of members
- **Suggestions for vacant seat** on committee: Joan Coutu, Scott Klein, Marlene Epp